

## **Week of April 21, 2003: MDOT Flash Facts**

### **Topic: Moose-Vehicle Collisions**

#### **Monday:**

##### **Opener:**

With the weather getting warmer, moose are on the roadsides looking for food. Stay tuned for facts every driver should know about moose collisions.

##### **Flash Facts:**

May through June is prime time for moose to be out on the roads. Although this could mean some great wildlife sightings, the MaineDOT warns that vehicle-moose collisions can be deadly. Why are these animals so dangerous?

- A moose's body stands taller than most car hoods, making them dangerous to vehicle occupants.
- They are hard to see, especially at night.
- An adult moose can weigh up to 1500 pounds, making a collision deadly.
- Moose are extremely fast - and extremely unpredictable.

Be A Road Model – always be on the alert for moose, especially now.

#### **Wednesday:**

##### **Opener:**

Moose are on the roads right now, which can be dangerous for drivers. Stay tuned for tips on how to keep clear of collisions.

##### **Flash Facts**

Moose may be fascinating to see, but a moose-vehicle collision often ends in injury or death. Drivers should be cautious this time of year. Here are some MaineDOT safety tips when you and a moose share the road.

- Don't try to drive around the moose.
- Don't get out of the car - the moose may decide to charge.
- Give the moose plenty of room - it will eventually wander back into the woods.

Be A Road Model: drive cautiously around wildlife

**Friday:****Opener:**

Although we in southern Maine may not think we're at risk, moose collisions occur in every county in Maine. Stay tuned for what you can do.

**Flash Facts:**

Vehicle-moose collisions are reported in every county in Maine. Although these collisions happen year-round, they are most common right now - between May and October. 90% of moose-vehicle crashes happen between dusk and dawn. These animals are especially hard to see at night: Here's why:

- A moose's dark coat can blend into the background. Use your high-beams whenever possible.
- Moose's eyes don't reflect the light the way deer's eyes do, so you'll have less time to react. Drive slowly this time of year.
- Moose's bodies are generally above the headlight beams of the average car. Another reason to keep those high beams on.
- Scan the roadway and roadside areas well ahead, watching for large animal activity.

Be A Road Model: know how to avoid moose collisions.